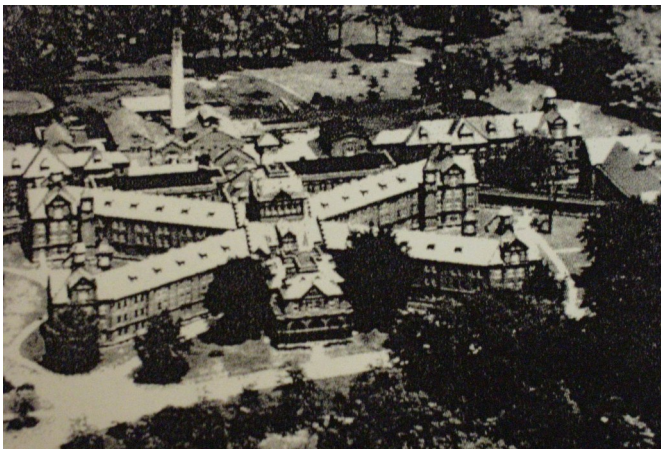


# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF EVANSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

## FREE CLASSES ON MENTAL ILLNESS

Are you helping someone living with bipolar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic or anxiety disorder, borderline personality disorder, schizo-affective disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder? NAMI's 12-week classes are designed to assist family members and friends with challenges they might face when caring for a loved one with mental illness. The educational course begins on Monday, September 13 from 6:45-9:00 p.m. at Old North United Methodist Church-Stringtown Rd, Evansville, and meets for 12 consecutive Monday evenings. There is no cost to participants. Reservations and additional information can be acquired by contacting Diane Arneson at 812-423-4333. NAMI Evansville also offers monthly support groups for anyone dealing with issues of mental illness. Find out more about the National Alliance on Mental Illness by visiting their website at [www.namievansville.org](http://www.namievansville.org).



## PHOTOS ON DISPLAY AT MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Images of Evansville State Hospital are included in the Evansville Museum's "Caring Hands" exhibition that will run through February 2011. Photos of ESH on display include several early 19th century exterior shots of the building, the aftermath of the 1943 fire, the dedication of a TV set in 1958, and recreation therapy.

## FIVE EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED

Governor Mitch Daniels and State Personnel Department Director Daniel Hackler honored state employees with 35, 40, 45, and 50 years of service during the Governor's Long-Term Reception on August 26 at the Statehouse Atrium. ESH employees recognized for 40 years were **Pam Grewe** and **Faye Harris**. Employees with 35 years of service were **Tony Bennett**, **Cindi Gehlhausen**, and **Ed Kueber**.

Pam Grewe, Director of Admission Continuing Treatment & Geriatric Services, attended the annual reception, sharing that "the atrium was filled with state employees on Thursday that represented over 4,300 years of state service." Honorees received a certificate of recognition and photo. A cake reception followed the ceremony. Pam began employment with ESH on August 3, 1970 as a clerk in the Nursing Office while going to school at the University of Evansville. She has held over six different positions at ESH, and has many fond memories of the patients she has worked with over the years. She's seen several significant improvements, noting the move to the new hospital building, newer psychiatric medications with fewer side effects, and involvement of all clinical disciplines in treatment programming. "I've been happy here; the wonderful staff that I supervise makes my job easier and enjoyable."



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**ART PARTY by Donna Mesker, Treatment Mall Coordinator**

Several clients learned that you do not need artistic talent or experience to create paintings. On May 19 and June 23, two different art classes were offered by "**Art Party!**" painting instructor and owner, **Sara Jane Zinn**. Sara Jane led the clients step-by-step through a complete work of art in just two hours! The main hurdle was getting past the fear of trying. Once paint was put to canvas, the creativity flowed and works of art were created. As Sara Jane says "ANYONE can do it." Each client left with their own painting as a souvenir of their labor.

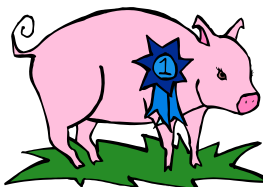
Through hands-on tangible accomplishments, clients experienced an internal since of well being that will live on for some time. As we build upon these therapeutic moments, the attitude of clients is broadened providing a more adaptive vantage point from which to grow and cope with future events.

**DONATIONS**

Thank you for the following gifts received in the past quarter: diabetic socks, Halloween decorations, t-shirts, socks, coin purses, watches, personal care products, magazines, hard and paperback books, 1940 Photo book, CD's, DVD movies, stickers, greeting cards, stationery, calculator, batteries, pocket folders, puzzle books, gum, pre-paid phone cards, cupcakes, calendars, key chains, jewelry, guitar, guitar amplifier, jigsaw puzzles, tissues, gift bags, composition books, ball caps, and craft supplies.

Special thanks to **Artex School Uniforms & Cornerstone Catholic Books & Gifts** for co-sponsoring the "Make a Difference" program to raise awareness about local charities. CD music was collected in August for ESH residents; customers who donated items received premiums or coupons.

Hats off to **Peggy Blume** and **Patti Lahay** for responding to our need of creative card magazines to provide samples/patterns for weekly programming.



Thanks to **Vanderburgh County Fair Association** for free admittance to the fair for our residents!

**GIFT LIFT PROGRAM**

Planning for the holidays has begun with the Christmas Work Group reconvening on September 1. Sponsors in the program will be receiving a letter asking for their support again in providing gifts for our patients. Monetary contributions for the program are always appreciated for last minute gift purchases and holiday party supplies. Popular gift requests include pre-paid phone cards, batteries, watches, CD music and players, gift cards to area stores/restaurants, sleepwear, t-shirts/sweatshirts (sports and novelty logos), winter garments (scarves, hats, gloves), fleece blankets, and personal care products.

Contact Community Services at 812-469-6800, ext. 4970 if you can help in any way—we recycle gift bags!

**FALL FESTIVAL****OCTOBER 8****SOLARIUM COURTYARD  
FESTIVAL GAMES !****SNO CONES !****TRAIN RIDES !**



## GOOD DEEDS!

On August 1, members of **Christian Fellowship Church** planned a fun-filled surprise visit, hoping to bring a bit of cheer and treats to hospital residents. The group came prepared to please with a Subway lunch, and catered to everyone's taste buds with a variety of sandwich toppings of fresh veggies and sauces, chips, and cookies. Members enjoyed mingling and talking with the patients during lunch and stayed to play several games of bingo with them. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed the fellowship.

ESH is expecting 18 United Way volunteers through the annual **"Day of Caring"** on Friday, September 10. Several businesses are encouraging their staff to take the morning off from regular duties to lend a helping hand to community organizations. Volunteers visiting ESH will help with the newsletter mailings, Christmas preparations, and social skills programs.

**SECC 2010-11 "Now More than Ever":** A Cook-Off on August 18 brought in \$404.24 for *Mental Health America of Vanderburgh County*. The early kick-off to the annual State Employees' Community Campaign had employees munching on biscuits & gravy, hot dogs & chili, soups, and many dessert items. Through the annual campaign, employees may contribute to any 501©(3) charity through a one-time contribution or the convenience of payroll deductions. The \$1.2 million target state-wide was met last year and will be the goal again this year. This year's campaign will run from September 9-October 22.

## HEALTH & FITNESS EDUCATION

**Arin Norris**, Executive Director of Guardianship Services of Southwestern IN, Inc., spoke to employees on July 28 about the pilot guardianship program. Ms. Norris offered ways to support the program which provides a continuum of temporary and permanent guardianship services and other law-related and case management services for incapacitated adults who are under the jurisdiction of the Probate Court in Vanderburgh County. The organization uses a mix of volunteers, attorneys, and professional social services/case management staff members to offer an array of guardianship and related programs. The next volunteer training session is slated for October. If interesting in learning more, contact Arin at 812-435-1498 or [training@gsswi.com](mailto:training@gsswi.com).



On August 19, **Robin Lawrence**, Marketing Director-Evansville Cancer Center, provided staff with important facts about skin cancers including early detection and prevention methods. Robin is a local and nationally recognized speaker with several awards for her educational and outreach efforts. As an 8 year cancer survivor, she hopes to help others understand the fragility of life and importance of preventing skin cancer.

17 employees participated in a two mile fitness walk during the weekend of August 13/14. The fitness walk was scheduled in conjunction with **First Lady Cheri Daniels' Heartland Walk** to promote awareness that heart disease is the most prominent threat to Hoosiers.

### Upcoming Community Walks

September 18-**LifeSavers Suicide Awareness & Prevention Walk**

(ESH grounds 9:00 a.m.; register by contacting Janie Chappell at 471-4521).

September 25-**Susan G Komen Race for the Cure**

(Downtown Evansville 9:00 a.m.; register at [www.komenevansville.org](http://www.komenevansville.org)).

October 3-**St. Vincent DePaul's Friends of the Poor Walk**

(State Hospital grounds 9:00 a.m.; register at [www.svdppfriendsofthepoorwalk.org](http://www.svdppfriendsofthepoorwalk.org))



*COMMUNITY CONNECTION is published every other month for friends of Evansville State Hospital. News items are welcome and should be submitted to the Community Services Office.*

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.IN.GOV

### **COMPUTERIZED RECORD PROGRESSING WITH NEW SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT**



ESH employees are embracing the new age in technology with the implementation of computerized assessments through the Avatar system. Each disciplinary assessment is now entered through the computer system and a hard copy placed on the physical medical record.

The Suicide Lethality/Risk Assessment policy was updated in August to include use of suicide screening measures to identify safety risks inherent in our patient population and patients at risk for suicide, and to have procedures in place to ensure appropriate staff intervention occurs for those patients at risk of self-injury.

All patients are screened for suicide risk upon admission, within three days of discharge, and at any time for reported and/

or demonstrated cause. The unit nurse is responsible for completing the screen after an indication that a patient may be potentially suicidal. All personnel have a responsibility to report any information that they have about a patient that may be considering suicide. When suicide precautions are implemented for a particular patient, staff are responsible for knowing the levels of precautions and following appropriate guidelines.

Adding the new suicide risk assessment to the Avatar system is just one example of the progress with the computerized record. Another milestone is the computerized treatment plan. Four of the five units are now completing the plans through the system with training for the remaining unit scheduled this fall.

### **WELCOME NEW NURSING EMPLOYEES**

Sarah Goff  
Amy Johnson  
Kelly Kelly  
Katherine Maximena  
Beverly Rogers



Mark Schminke  
Rex Stevens  
Amanda Swettenam  
Amy Turner



### **GOODBYE**

Elizabeth Hoffman  
Vicki Whitehead  
Becky Wolfe